

YAXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2014 at Yaxley Community Centre

Present:

Cllr C Aldous,	Cllr J Hawes,
Cllr K Pawsey	Cllr I Luff,
Cllr J Moore,	Cllr Wright,
Cllr A Watts,	Cllr Burn.

County Councillor Jessica Fleming.

6 members of the public.

Philip Freeman – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr S Sano.

2. Councillor's Declaration of Interests in Agenda Items.

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 8th January 2014.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The following matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting were noted:

- The ditch at the top end of Thornham Road had been cleared.
- Various Highways matters which were reported after the last meeting had been dealt with.
- The petition had been recovered from the Mellis Tavern; there were approximately 400 signatures on it.
- The Clerk had received a reply from Mid Suffolk CAB.

5. Notification of any items of urgent business:

- Cllr Luff reported a problem with flooding opposite the Community Hall entrance.

Public Forum

County Councillor Report, February 2014.

Council Budget Approved for Financial Year 2014/ 2015

The cabinet has given its approval to budget proposals for the new financial year. The budget reflects reduced spending of £38.6 million as part of a four-year plan to address reduced central government funding; further reductions will be required over this period to maintain a balanced budget. Council taxes remain frozen at current levels and front line services are protected.

Reminder to Parish Council - Feedback Request on Highways Maintenance

Suffolk County Council has asked for your comments on highways repair/ 'minor works' performed on behalf of the County by contractor Kier MG. If you have made requests for pothole repair, salt/ grit replacement or other minor repairs please would you provide details to me to pass on, ideally:

- *Location of works and Nature of works*

- *Date you reported work required doing/requested the work*

- *How was the request made – (via online reporting link or direct to Highways officer)*

- *Date work promised*

Signed: _____

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- *Date work was actually completed (or whether still outstanding)*
- *How many times you have had to chase the work*
- *If delayed, what were the reasons given*
- *Any 'areas for improvement', e.g. wastage of materials, unnecessary journeys, visiting a site but not undertaking all the work requested/required etc.*
- *Instances of good work are also welcome.*

Information about County highways maintenance and online reporting can be found at:
<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/environment-and-transport/highways/highway-maintenance/potholes-and-other-defects-on-roads-pavements-and-cycleways/>

Progress Power – Eye Gas Plant and Substation

Consultation on Substation and Access - Following an Outreach Meeting attended by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 22nd January in Scole, Progress Power provided information on the electrical connection and compound and access – refer to www.progresspower.co.uk and at local libraries. The comment period runs until close of business on 6th March.

Public/ community drop-in sessions - 25th February at Mellis Memorial Hall noon-2.00, Yaxley 4.00 – 6.00 p.m., and Eye Town Hall 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

Next Steps:

- *Site visit to substation – parish council representatives and/ or by invitation – mid March*
- *Application Submittal to PINS – anticipate end of March or early April*
- *Application Accepted for Examination by PINS – applicant must notify 'host' and 'neighbouring' LAs and 'relevant' PCs (i.e. Yaxley, Thrandeston and Eye TC)*
- *PINS to hold a Preliminary Meeting about future steps – statutory parties must be invited and given opportunity to register as Interested Parties if not automatic, others may attend as well*
- *All Parish Councils and others must register as 'Interested Parties' in order to be able to fully participate in the next stages – minimum 28-day period offered by applicant to provide approx. 500-page 'Relevant Representation' to PINS in which views and concerns are summarised*

Information about the process is on:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/eastern/progress-power-station/?ipcsection=advice>

Consultation – Home to School Transport 2014/ 2015 and 2015/2016

Suffolk County Council is currently consulting on future funding support and policy arrangements for school transport, comments should be made by 28th March. See: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/consultations/consultation-home-to-school-travel-policy/>

Consultation – Eye Neighbourhood Plan

Mid Suffolk District Council is now seeking comments on the proposed Eye Neighbourhood Plan, in particular the proposed area designation. The statutory consultation period will finish at 4:00pm on 26 March 2014. Please provide any comments you may have during by email or post as set out in the [Neighbourhood Planning in Eye](#) web page.

Signed: _____

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Electric Car Charging Coming to Suffolk

Suffolk's Climate Change Partnership will fund 12 additional rapid charge points in the County. These can charge a vehicle in 20 minutes as opposed to 6 – 8 hours for a standard charger. Suffolk currently has 1 rapid charger in Bury and 10 standard chargers for public use. This link takes you to a national map charging points: <https://www.goultralow.com/how-do-i-power/charging-on-the-go/>

Better Broadband News - Update

Levels of Coverage - Suffolk County Council is expanding services to achieve 95% of premises accessing superfast BB (24Mbps or more) by 2015, and every property 2Mbps by 2017.

Getting High-speed Broadband - Parish Councils will/ should be informed through SALC when the area 'goes live' (new fibre connection available) and should sign up.

To get fibre broadband, an order needs to be placed with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and an engineer will need to visit your premises to install equipment, there a small cost as explained here:

<http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/FAQs.aspx?ID=7>

Contact: The County Development Team can visit interested communities and explain the programme, on request. Residents can get in touch direct at the [contact us](#) page.

Internships & Apprenticeships - Update

Local Government – www.risinghighsuffolk.org.uk.

Creative & Cultural Skills - your local Job Centre Plus or www.suffolkartlink.org.uk/cep.

Industry/ Private Sector- Most of Suffolk's main employers offer apprenticeship schemes. For example - <http://www.britishtsugar.co.uk/apprentices.aspx>

Agriculture - Anglia Farmers *et al* aim to recruit 440 new apprentices across the East of England by March 2015. Details, Lorraine Nuccoll on 07500 959 314, Lorraine.nuccoll@angliafarmers.co.uk

Agri-Tech Grants Available

Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk will benefit from [£3.2 million of funding](#)

Download [guidance document here](#). To pre-qualify complete the [questionnaire here](#).

Or contact Martin Lutman via info@agritechgrants.co.uk or by calling 01223 967009.

Suffolk Flooding

Please click [HERE](#) for latest copy of Suffolk Flood & Coastal News and schedule for Environment Agency drop-in sessions taking place during February.

Contact:

County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division

Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

Mobile: 07714-597980

There followed a discussion of Cllr Flemings report in which the following points were made:

- Mr Talbot expressed his concern that his farm would be cut in two as a result of the latest proposal from Progress Power and asked that Cllr Fleming should represent local opinion.
- Mr Hammond expressed his concern that he had heard nothing about the increase in the demand for land for the substation and road.
- Cllr Burn explained that all that was known was on the Progress Power website.
- Mr Hammond stated that all the information he had received was in the recent booklet.
- Cllr Fleming stated that she was working with the County Planning Officers to get information and that the proposal was part of Central Government Policy.
- Mr Hammond pointed out that the previous attempt to put a substation in the area had been stopped by Lady Henniker.
- The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had been following it up for some time.
- Mr Hammond and Mr Talbot expressed their concern about not being able to obtain information.
- Cllr Burn pointed out that there will be 28 days after the application was submitted for the inspector to decide on whether to accept it.
- Cllr Luff suggested that the most cost effective scheme would be for overhead power lines. If this were to be done then there would be no need for a substation to the West of the A140. It appeared that the idea of overhead cables had been rejected following a meeting between Progress Power and Suffolk County Council.
- Cllr Watts had spoken to a Progress Power representative at the Yaxley consultation meeting and had been told that the overhead option would cost £2 million and the underground would be £10 million. It had been admitted in a report that Mid Suffolk District Council had said there would be objections to overhead power lines and SCC objected to them in principle.

Signed: _____

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- Cllr Luff felt that the options should have been discussed because the choice was between a few extra pylons, and a massive structure and dividing two farms in half. The overhead power lines option had been dismissed without being fully considered.
- Cllr Burn explained that Cllr McGregor had opposed the scheme for overhead power lines to bring power from the North Sea wind farms and he had worked with Michael Wilks at the beginning of this planning process.
- In response to a question from the Chairman, Cllr Fleming explained that the best course of action would be to put in writing that the Parish Council had not been properly consulted and to make its comments to Progress Power, copied to SCC and MSDC.
- It was agreed that if the plans were to be implemented then this should be in the least injurious way.
- In summary Cllr Fleming put forward the options which Progress Power could investigate:
 - Over ground power lines and substation on the Airfield.
 - Underground power lines and substation on the Airfield.
- Mr Hall and Mr Hammond suggested that that the hardstand entrance could be the best option for access to the site for the substation.
- Mr Talbot and Mr Hammond suggested that the northern site would be the best option.

Cllr Fleming and 4 members of the public left the meeting.

Cllr Burn – District Council report:

- Eye Neighbourhood Plan:
 - Eye wished to define the area for its plan and there had been an application to MSDC to do so. The request for the area was based on the parish boundary which included part of the Airfield. It could be considered that it would be better to include the whole of the Airfield in the plan because it would have statutory weight which the Airfield Development Plan did not have.
 - In response to a question for the Chairman, Cllr Burn explained that he did not know what the impact of the plan would be on Yaxley. The plan could take in the whole of the Airfield but only with the agreement of Brome, Yaxley and Thrandeston Parish Councils. However, there would be a requirement for a referendum on the Plan which would not necessarily be restricted to voters in Eye.
 - Cllr Aldous pointed out that the Council had rejected a Neighbourhood Plan on cost and that there was no need for it. He was concerned that there could be a hidden agenda in the Eye initiative.
 - Cllr Moore pointed out that Eye Council may not have included other councils in its planning because there had been no approach.

6. Correspondence (copies circulated in Correspondence File or with agenda).

- Various documents from SALC
- Clerk & Councils Direct.
- Various emails about the Progress Power application.
- Emails from the Highways Department of Suffolk County Council.
- Various emails from Suffolk Community Foundation.
- Spring Litter Picks.
- Cruse Advert Request.
- Community Emergency Planning Workshop.
- Community Achievement Awards.
- Emails from UK Power Networks.
- Arthrose Appeal – West Suffolk Hospital.
- The Local Councillor.

7. Yaxley Allotments:

- Update on allotment gardens and tenancy agreement.
 - a. Report on the number of vacant plots.
The Clerk reported that 12 agreements had been returned, but one cheque had been made payable to him. He had paid the equivalent amount into the bank and cashed the cheque.
 - b. Applications for Plots.
 - Application from Caroline Norris.
Agreed.
 - c. Tenancy agreements 2013/2014.
See above.
- Unused plots:
These will be attended to when the weather improves.

Signed: _____

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8. Highways Matters:

- a. The use of the road through Yaxley by HGVs.
 - i. HGV petition.
The petition had been returned with 354 signatures. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Dr Poulter MP to ask for his advice on how to submit it, since he had said that he would support it. **Action: The Clerk.**

9. Finances and financial report

- a. **Balances on Accounts: 28th January 2014.**
 - i. Current Account: £4,694.56p.
 - ii. Deposit Account: £5,559.33p.
- b. **To authorise cheques for signature:**
 - i. Clerk's Pay and Expenses: £160.02p
 - ii. HMRC: £40.08p
Resolved, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts presented. Proposed by Cllr Luff and seconded by Cllr Watts.
- c. **Receipts.**
 - i. £100 for access across the car park of Yaxley Community Centre.
 - ii. Workwear: £100.00p
 - iii. PH Hammond: £837.58p
 - iv. Claim for Recycling: £309.45p
- d. **Projects that the Parish Council may Finance**
 - i. Disabled toilets/toilet refurbishment for the Community Hall.
 - o Grant application.
Cllr Aldous reported that:
 - o He had investigated grants and that he would submit an application for Awards for All from the National Lottery. He felt that the process was quite straight forward.
 - o He would also pursue community projects and discretionary grants.
 - o It was likely that there would be a shortfall which would be made up by the Parish Council and the Community Hall.

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Aldous would begin work on the application, proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr Moore. Cllr Aldous was thanked for his work.

10. Tree on Boundary of Community Hall.

The chairman reported that he had met Mr Bull about the tree. There was a risk that it could fall on Mr Bull's property and since he had raised the problem he was prepared to organise and finance the work. It was unanimously agreed that his offer should be accepted but with proviso that the work was undertaken by an approved tree surgeon with public liability insurance.
Action: The Clerk will write to him to confirm this.

11. Cherry Tree Close Working Party.

Cllr Watts reported that there had been no further contact with Shane Hines.

12. Annual Parish Meeting.

It was agreed that this would take place on 14th May 2014 before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

13. Eye Airfield:

- a. Wind Turbines:
 - i. At the end of the first year after the first two wind turbines were erected on Eye Airfield, how are the promised benefits to the local community being delivered?
Cllr Burn explained that this was based on a section 106 agreement of £1,000 per megawatt of capacity and that £6,800 had been paid for each of the 3.4 megawatt turbines. However there was a query about the turbine on the Humphrey's site. The income would be used for a variety of schemes with 'green' credentials.
The fund had no name and was administered by the Communities Team.
The use of the fund will be within a limited area.
The Chairman thanked Cllr Burn for his help with this.
Cllr Hawes pointed out that this needs to be monitored.
- b. Progress Power Application:

Signed: _____

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- i. Report from meeting on 22nd January 2014.
The report had been sent to councillors.
- ii. Yaxley Parish Council's response to Progress Power's proposal.
There were problems with the latest proposal:
 - The allotments were not shown.
 - The access to the allotments had not been marked.
 In the discussion of the response from the parish Council the following points were made:
 - Cllr Luff had analysed the document and highlighted the sections for comment where Progress Power would be vulnerable.
 - Cllr Burn pointed out that at the Eye Consultation it was stated that there would not be a substation. This would have affected the response on the power lines. There had never been a direct response to the questions from the Parish Council.
 - It was agreed that the impact on the quality of life should be stressed, in particular on those with allotments.
 - It was agreed that Cllr Luff should email the Clerk the document that he had prepared.
 - There was a discussion of whether local people should be encouraged to make responses, since what was said now would influence the environmental statement.

Action: the Clerk will prepare a response based on Cllr Luff's document and the discussion at the meeting. It would be circulated to Councillors for comment before it was submitted.
- iii. Yaxley Parish Council's initial guidelines for comments to the Planning Inspectorate if an application is accepted from Progress Power.
Nothing further to report.

14. Parish Council matters for publication in the Yaxley Messenger.

The Parish Council's response to Progress Power, which will be added to the Yaxley Website.

15. Planning: To include any applications received after the publication of this agenda.

- a. Applications: None.
- b. Planning Decisions:
 - i. Approved: None.
 - ii. Refused: None.

16. Play Area:

- a. Request from the family of Christopher Sinclair to place a bench by the Play Area.
Following a discussion it was agreed unanimously to thank the family and to accept the offer of a bench and that the Parish Council would pay for the fixings, proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr Aldous.
- b. Request for Additional Step on Slide Ladder.
Following a discussion it was agreed to raise the level of the area by adding more playground chips. It was noted that it was designed to prevent 3 to 5 year olds from using it by themselves. It was agreed unanimously to order more chips, proposed by Cllr Aldous and seconded by Cllr Hawes. **Action: the Clerk.**
- c. To receive Play Area Inspection Report.
All was in order. Cllr Moore agreed to continue until the next meeting.
- d. Annual Playground Report.
The actions will be agreed at the next meeting.

17. Yaxley Cemetery:

- a. To consider inspection report – Cllr J Hawes.
All was in order.
- b. Burial of ashes and headstone.
Following a discussion it was agreed to purchase concrete slabs (2 feet by 2 feet) to define each place. The slab would then be lifted and the ashes buried beneath and there would be space for 9 slabs. The monument would then go on the slab and that the headstone height should be no more than 18 inches. This will be added to the Cemetery Rules.
Cllrs Pawsey, Moore and Hawes agreed to set the slabs in place. It was agreed to review the burial costs at the next meeting. **Action: the Clerk.**

18. To receive Councillor's reports:

- a. Cllr Burn – EPR.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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Nothing to report.

- b. Cllr Moore – Yaxley Town Estates Fund.
Nothing to report.

19. A.O.B. – Any Items raised earlier but not for an extended discussion or decisions and items for inclusion at next meeting on Wednesday 2nd April 2014.

Parking on the grass verge by Turnpike House.

Meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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